

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 IO-13 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 SNM-02 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 /084 W

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R 091914Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2945

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 11100

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PE, CO, VE, EC

SUBJ: PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ' VISIT TO VENEZUELA

REF: CARACAS 14113

1. THE DECEMBER 5 OFFICIAL GAZETTE EL PERUANO CARRIED THE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ WILL VISIT VENEZUELA DECEMBER 10-13 FOLLOWING AN INVITATION FROM VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ. PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY DR. JOSE DE LA PUENTE, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; GENERAL LUIS ARIAS GRAZIANI, MINISTER OF COMMERCE; DR. LUIS BARUA CASTANEDA, MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE; ADMIRAL JORGE DU BOIS GERVASI, MINISTER OF INTEGRATION; ADMIRAL GERONIMO CAFFERATTA, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION; AND, GENERAL ARTURO LA TORRE DI TOLLA, MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES. EN ROUTE TO VENEZUELA THE PRESIDENT WILL STOP OFF IN BOGOTA WHERE HE WILL REPORTEDLY MEET WITH COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT, DR. ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN. ON HIS RETURN TRIP ON DECEMBER 13, PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ WILL MAKE AN "AIRPORT" STOP-OVER IN QUITO WHERE HE WILL REPORTEDLY MEET WITH JUNTA CHIEF, VICE ADMIRAL ALFREDO POVEDA.

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2. THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT STATES THAT PRESIDENT MORALES

BERMUDEZ WILL HOLD CONVERSATIONS WITH THE THREE CHIEFS OF STATE ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO PUBLIC STATEMENT BY VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR IN PERU LUIS ARTURO ORDONEZ, VENEZUELA WILL PROVIDE CAPITAL FOR THE FORMATION OF MIXED PERUVIAN/VENEZUELAN ENTERPRISES WHICH WILL STIMULATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BE A "TAKE-OFF" POINT FOR ANDEAN COMMON MARKET PROGRESS. THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR ALSO STATED THAT VENEZUELA WILL CONTINUE ITS AID TO PERU IN PROVIDING PETROLEUM. LIMA PRESS REPORTS COMMENTARY OF FONOFF OFFICIALS THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL ENCOUNTER WILL PRODUCE ACCORDS TO COMBAT ILLEGAL TRAFFIC IN NARCOTICS AS WELL AS IN ARCHEOLOGICAL ITEMS. THERE WILL BE AN AGREEMENT COVERING TOURISM.

3. MORALES BERMUDEZ' STOPS IN BOGOTA AND QUITO WERE DESCRIBED TO EMBOFF BY FONOFF OFFICIAL AS PROTOCOLARY AND PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC IMPACT.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NOT PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED, AN IMPORTANT TOPIC OF THE MORALES BERMUDEZ CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ IS SURE TO BE THE BOLIVIAN CORRIDOR QUESTION WHICH IS AT A DELICATE POINT AND NEAR TO DIPLOMATIC IMPASSE. AN INTRIGUING ASPECT OF THAT QUESTION TOUCHING ON GOP DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IS AN ALLEGED PLOY TO ENLIST APRA PARTY SUPPORT FOR THE GOP'S CORRIDOR INITIATIVE IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE NATIONAL UNITY IN THE "WAR OF NERVES" WITH CHILE AND TO IMPRESS PEREZ WITH CIVILIAN (AND ESPECIALLY APRA) SUPPORT FOR THE GOP ON THIS ISSUE. APRA SOURCES TOLD EMBASSY THAT THE PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S., GARCIA BEDOYA (PURPORTEDLY ACTING FOR MORALES BERMUDEZ), RECENTLY CALLED ON HAYA DE LA TORRE TO ASK FOR APRA'S SUPPORT ON THE CORRIDOR IN THIS TIME OF NATIONAL TROUBLE. (APRA DEMURRED). GARCIA BEDOYA THEN ALLEGEDLY TRAVELED TO VENEZUELA TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE THAT THE GOP IS TALKING WITH APRA AND HAS ITS SUPPORT ON THE CORRIDOR, THUS SUGGESTING TO PEREZ THAT MILITARY/CIVILIAN DIALOGUE EXISTS AND THE GOP IS "OPENING TOWARD DEMOCRACY". FOR THE SAME REASON APRA CONTENDS THAT MORALES BERMUDEZ' RECENT REFERENCES IN SPEECHES TO POSSIBLE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN A NOT DISTANT FUTURE WERE MEANT TO IMPRESS VENEZUELA IN AN EFFORT TO SECURE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITHOUT POLITICAL STRINGS.

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